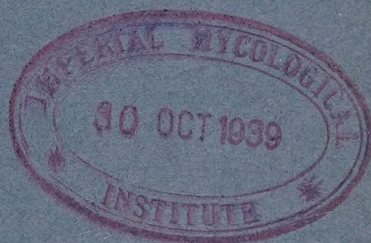


VOLUME XIV
No. 6

GOVERNMENT OF NORTHERN IRELAND
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

MONTHLY REPORT

OCTOBER, 1939.



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GOVERNMENT OF NORTHERN IRELAND
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

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MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

MONTHLY REPORT

OCTOBER, 1939.

THE MINISTER AND INCREASED FOOD PRODUCTION.

I have just completed a tour of the County Committees of Agriculture in Northern Ireland, during which I availed myself of the many opportunities for free discussion with the members of each Committee and farmers all over the country. In the forefront of our discussions were the operations of the tillage campaign, and the organisation which is being set up in each county with the purpose of carrying out the campaign and of affording farmers all possible assistance in the tremendous task which they are undertaking as one of the most important contributions to victory. In this connection I may say at the outset that in each county a War Agricultural Executive Officer has been established, and in each rural district an Area Officer will be stationed. The duty of the Area Officer will be, amongst other functions, to ensure that the farmers' requirements for feeding stuffs, fertilisers, tractors, seeds, etc., are ascertained, and that supplies are adequately and speedily distributed.

The feeding stuffs position, being of paramount importance, was fully dealt with at these discussions, and I was left with no doubt that the Committees fully appreciated the necessity for a much greater production of home-grown feeding stuffs, particularly barley. I was also able to assure the many farmers with whom I came in contact during my tour that prices for products would be such as to encourage increased production from the land, and that the necessary machinery would be forthcoming, not only for ploughing the increased area of 250,000 acres which we are aiming at, but also for harvesting the increased crops.

Whilst I feel satisfied that the farmers in Northern Ireland will make their full contribution to the war effort, I would like to emphasise once again that it is of the greatest importance to the life of the community that every farmer should put the maximum acreage under the plough so that the country's food supply may be assured. We cannot count upon the uninterrupted flow of unlimited supplies of feeding stuffs from abroad in these days of war as we could in peace time, and although the British Navy will doubtless maintain the freedom of the seas for our merchant ships to operate, it is doubtful if it would be desirable to spend so much of our money abroad in these days of restricted trade.

Accordingly, in making a further appeal to farmers in Northern Ireland to increase to the very maximum the area of cultivated land for food production, I would ask them to remember the old saying, "He who gives readily gives doubly", which is as likely to prove as true in this connection as in any other.

B. S. BROOKE.

Stormont, 12th October, 1939.

AGRICULTURAL CONDITIONS.

AGRICULTURAL CONDITIONS AT 1st OCTOBER, 1939.

With the exception of a short period in the early part of last month, when the weather was somewhat unsettled and some heavy showers of rain fell, excellent conditions prevailed throughout September, and it will be remembered as one of the finest harvest months on record. The last three weeks of the month were particularly dry and warm for the time of the year, and there were many hours of bright sunshine in this period: following on the good weather up to the end of August, farmers have rarely been so fortunate in getting such a long continuous spell to save the harvest. During last month the saving of the remainder of the corn crops was completed under ideal conditions, as also was the harvesting of late cut meadow hay, whilst satisfactory progress was made with the lifting of potatoes. It was, however, reported that towards the end of the month some heavy morning dews and night frosts retarded harvesting operations to some extent, and that the warm and calm weather generally was conducive to heating, and on this account some grain crops had to be threshed rather hastily. Chief among the other outdoor pursuits engaged in last month was the ploughing up of land, principally permanent grassland for the Government grant, and drainage and other field improvement work in preparation for the coming season of increased food production.

Pastures remained in an excellent state throughout September, and there is still plenty of good quality "keep" available for live stock, although the ground frosts of late have checked growth to some extent. Rarely has the latter end of the grazing season been so good in regard to the quality as well as the quantity of the grass, and this position has been generally appreciated by stock owners at a time when it is of the greatest importance that supplies of other feeding stuffs for live stock should be conserved for the coming winter season. In this connection, it may be stated that whilst home-grown foods are ample for requirements on most farms, the position in regard to purchased cakes and meals has been less satisfactory, but with the control of supplies and of prices of all feeding stuffs by the Ministry of Food, stock owners may rest assured that for the coming season reasonable quantities will be available, and steps are being taken to ensure the equitable distribution of supplies.

Little difficulty was experienced in maintaining all classes of cattle in a good thriving condition during the favourable weather, and on the comparatively rich pasturage. Only a few minor attacks of seasonal troubles such as "hoose" and "red water" have been reported among cattle, whilst seasonal

outbreaks in flocks of sheep have, perhaps, been relatively even less notable. The cattle trade was generally brisk throughout the country during the month under review, and prices reflected the improvement, whilst a steady flow of business was reported in sheep at firm rates.

THE CROPS.

WHEAT.—This crop finished well, although some fields were reported to be rather thin. The fine weather during September enabled harvesting operations to be brought to a satisfactory conclusion in nearly all districts, and the wheat has generally been stacked in excellent condition. Threshing is now in progress, and some good yields of grain have been obtained.

OATS.—The bulk of the oat crop has been safely gathered in, but owing to the absence of drying winds a certain amount of damage from heating in the stacks has occurred, and in some districts threshing operations have had to be hastened on this account. The quality of the grain is generally very good.

The first supplies of this season's oats came on the markets last month, and prices averaged 6/8d. per cwt., as compared with 5/7d. for the similar period in 1938. The quotations for white oats generally showed an upward trend during September, and the monthly average price for all white oats was 10½d. higher than in August at 6/5d. per cwt. Supplies of oat straw sold at rising prices averaging 41/11d. per ton for the month.

BARLEY.—The harvesting of this crop has been practically completed, and most of it has been carted in and stacked in good order. Satisfactory reports have been received from most districts as to the grain.

FLAX.—Nearly all the flax crop has now been stacked or carted to the mill. Most of it was well handled, and scutching has just begun with promising results.

HAY.—The fine weather enabled farmers to cart in the small quantities of hay still remaining in the field at the beginning of the month. The quality of the bulk of the upland and meadow hay was of a high standard as a result of generally favourable harvesting conditions. The damp weather in July, however, has resulted in some damage, especially to seed hay.

Hay prices rose very steeply in the second week of the month, and the new high levels were fully maintained till the close. The average price of this year's upland hay sold at markets during September was 24/7d. dearer on the month at 89/3d. per ton, whilst that for all upland hay was 11/2d. above the August figure at 81/4d., and that for meadow hay 8/1d. dearer at 64/11d. per ton.

Grass seed was saved on a larger scale than last season, and on the whole the crop appears to be satisfactory. The germination of some of the seed may suffer, however, from weathering or too early cutting.

The prices for rye-grass seeds during September moved somewhat irregularly, but towards the end of the month they recorded a firm trend. The monthly average prices were:—Italian, 18/9d. per cwt., Perennial 15/7d., and mixed seed 15/5d. The first supplies of crested dogstail seed fetched 46/- per cwt. as against 72/6d. for the first offerings last year.

MANGELS.—This crop is still growing, and although some fields are rather weedy the general prospects are good. The lifting of the roots will soon begin.

TURNIPS.—The turnip crop made excellent growth during last month and, although some fields would now benefit from rain, and the dry weather has resulted in occasional attacks of mildew, the general condition of the roots is promising.

POTATOES.—The good weather enabled farmers to save their grain crops early, and to make a good start with the digging of the main crop potatoes. In some of the earlier areas lifting is now in full swing, whilst elsewhere a general start has been made. The principal varieties being raised are Arran Victory, Kerr's Pink and Up-to-Date. Late attacks of blight have caused some trouble, but as a rule disease has done very little damage this season. The crop grew out well and ripened quickly, and the general position is encouraging. The tubers are of good quality as a rule, and free from blemish, but there have been some complaints of sunburn and "soft rot".

The prices for the principal varieties of potatoes remained fairly steady throughout the month at higher levels than those ruling in August, and the monthly average price for all classes of the main crop recorded a rise of 8½d. at 3/6½d. per cwt. The monthly average prices of the principal varieties marketed were:—Arran Victory, 3/7¾d. per cwt., Kerr's Pink 3/4½d., and British Queen 3/8¼d.

OTHER VEGETABLES.—Home-grown produce marketed for local consumption during September generally eased further in price on the month. Cabbage sold at cheaper rates at from 6d. to 1/9d. per dozen, the average price of 1/3¼d. per dozen for the month, recording a decrease of 4¾d. The first supplies of this season's savoys marketed in Belfast during September fetched from 1/- to 2/- per dozen. Cauliflowers also were cheaper at an average price of 1/7d. per dozen, and a general price range of from 1/- to 3/3d. per dozen according to quality. The monthly average prices of leeks and parsley cheapened by ¼d. to 4¾d. and 5d. per bunch respectively. Prices generally ranged from 3d. to 6d. per bunch for leeks, and from 2½d. to 8d. per bunch for parsley. Carrots at 6¾d. per bunch were ¾d. dearer on the month, while parsnips and garden turnips fetched from 3d. to 5d. per bunch and 3d. to 8d. per bunch respectively.

FRUIT.

APPLES.—Home-grown apples at Belfast market continued to be freely offered at fairly steady prices during September, and the principal culinary variety Grenadier fetched from 3/- to 6/- per 10 stone barrel with the bulk of the trade being done at around 4/6d. First arrivals of the Bramley's seedling variety were available towards the close of the month at from 5/- to 10/- per ten stone barrel. Quotations for dessert varieties such as Kemps, Worcester Pearmain and Beauty of Bath ranged in price from 5/- to 12/- per 10 stone barrel according to quality.

PLUMS AND DAMSONS.—For the remaining supplies of these fruits offered during the earlier part of the month prices had an upward tendency at from 3/- to 5/- per stone for Victoria plums, and from 1/- to 2/- per stone for damsons.

PEARS.—Supplies marketed during September realised around 3/- per keg of from 4½ to 5 stones.

TOMATOES.—Home-grown tomatoes advanced in price during last month, and at the close the best produce was fetching up to 9/- per 12 lb. Earlier in the month lower grade produce was available at from 4/6d. Most of the business was transacted at from 5/6d. to 8/- per 12 lb.

LIVE STOCK.

CATTLE.—The plentiful grass enabled the condition of store cattle to be well maintained during September, and the health of the animals remained good, although a few cases of "hoose" and "red water" continued to be reported.

Supplies of store cattle at fairs increased during the month to normal dimensions. Trade for these improved and prices were considerably above those ruling in August.

With plenty of good grass available graziers kept their pastures well stocked whilst the numbers of cattle being fattened on grass last month were as a rule above normal. Average-sized offerings of fat cattle at fairs and markets held during September were generally of good quality, and a keen demand prevailed at prices showing appreciable advances on the month.

Dairy cattle generally remained in good health and condition throughout September. "Red water" was, however, rather prevalent. A few cases of abortion and "felon" were observed, but otherwise calving proceeded normally. The milk yields were well maintained, although the fall in night temperatures in the latter part of the month resulted in some decline.

The demand for the normal-sized offerings of dairy cattle at fairs continued to show an improvement, and prices were firm to dearer for all classes.

SHEEP.—The condition and health of the flocks continued good during last month, and late lambs improved considerably in condition. "Foot rot" gave a certain amount of trouble, but was generally much less prevalent than usual on account of the dry weather. The occurrence of "liver fluke" disease was also less widespread than in a normal season, but the maggot fly caused serious trouble in some flocks.

The fairly heavy supplies of breeding and fat sheep and lambs sold readily at firm to dearer rates.

WOOL.—Unwashed wool at the principal markets during September showed little variation in price at around $8\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. for long wool, and $6\frac{3}{4}$ d. for mountain.

PIGS.—Average supplies of young pigs encountered a variable enquiry at prices which moved irregularly, but on balance were little changed on the month. The demand for brood sows also varied from district to district and price movements followed no definite trend.

POULTRY.—For supplies of live poultry offered at markets last month prices were generally firmer than in August. The average price of chickens rose by $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. to $2/2\frac{1}{4}$ d., and the top price recorded during the month was 3/6d. Hens averaged $1/7\frac{3}{4}$ d. each, or $\frac{3}{4}$ d. more than a month ago, and ranged up to 2/8d. each, whilst ducks cheapened by a similar margin to an average price of 2/3d. each and ranged up to 3/- each. The prices per lb. live weight paid by wholesale merchants generally recorded a slightly firmer trend during the month and ranged as follows:—Chickens, large $6\frac{1}{2}$ d. to $7\frac{1}{2}$ d., medium 6d. to 7d., small 5d. to 7d., hens $4\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 5d., and ducks 5d. to $6\frac{1}{2}$ d.

HORSES.—With the campaign for increasing home production of food in full swing, and the rationing of petrol, the demand for working horses made a remarkable improvement during the month, and prices moved sharply upward. Good farm horses fetched from £30 to £80 per head, with many sales taking place at around £60, while horses suitable for van work were particularly in request at prices ranging up to £90. The trade for older horses, foals and unbroken colts failed to record a corresponding improvement, but prices were generally well advanced on the month at from £10 to £38 per head for horses over ten years old, £22 to £35 for unbroken colts, and from £10 to £18 for foals of about a year old.

DAIRY PRODUCE.

MILK.—With grass remaining plentiful and of good quality, the milk yields were well maintained for the greater part of last month, during which conditions were most favourable, but later the effects of lower night temperatures,

and in some cases of reduced hand-feeding, resulted in a decrease in milk supplies. In some districts the yields for the whole month were well up to or even above normal, but in others they were reported to have fallen to low seasonal levels. The prices paid for milk delivered to the creameries during August generally ranged from 4d. to 5½d. per gallon, the separated milk being returned to the farmer.

The rate of equalisation payment for milk produced in Northern Ireland, and delivered to creameries for manufacturing purposes, was determined at 0.13d. per gallon for the month of August, 1939, in accordance with the Milk and Milk Products Acts (Northern Ireland), 1934 to 1938.

It should be noted that under the regulations creameries are required to distribute payments in accordance with the butter fat content of the milk received from each supplier.

FARM BUTTER.—Supplies marketed last month again fetched slightly increased prices. The average price of print butter hardened by 1¼d. to 1/3½d. per lb., that for lump butter by 1½d. to 1/2¼d. The general price ranges were 1/1d. to 1/6d. per lb. for farmers' print butter, and from 9d. to 1/4d. for lump.

EGGS.—Prices for hen eggs, as fixed by the Ministry of Agriculture from week to week, recorded a slightly firmer trend during September, while those for duck eggs advanced steadily to higher levels.

A table of egg prices showing the prices ruling during the five weeks ended 30th September, 1939, together with comparative figures for 1938, appears on page 359 of this Report.

THE PLOUGHING - UP CAMPAIGN.

(1) SCHEME OF GRANTS FOR PLOUGHING-UP GRASSLAND.

The Ministry is very pleased with the response being made by farmers to its request to till more land for food production, and already some 7,440 applications have been received in respect of 49,585 acres to be ploughed up for the grant of £2 per acre payable under the terms of the Scheme. To give an idea of how the scheme is being availed of throughout the country a list is appended showing the numbers of applications received up to 18th October, together with the total acreage in each county.

			No. of Applications	Total area Involved
Antrim	...	...	1,010	8,140
Armagh	...	...	423	2,649
Down	...	...	1,042	8,616
Fermanagh	...	...	502	2,912
Londonderry	...	...	1,085	7,949
Tyrone	...	...	3,379	19,319

Fresh applications continue to pour in to the Ministry's offices daily, and it is reasonable to expect that before the end of the year these totals will be considerably increased.

Although the period for ploughing has been extended to 31st March next, intending applicants should not delay further, but write immediately to the Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Stormont, Belfast, requesting a form of application under the terms of this scheme, and stating their intention in the following manner:—

I propose to plough up permanent grassland now in my occupation, and require an application form for the Government contribution of £2 per statute acre. My postal address is
 and the address of my farm is
 The total acreage of permanent grassland on the farm is
 and I propose to plough up statute acres on or about
 (mention date). The crop to be sown on this land will be oats, barley, flax, potatoes or wheat (mention which of these crops is intended to be sown). Signature and date.

On the receipt of this notification the Ministry will issue an official acknowledgment, together with a statutory form of application, which should be completed in due course and returned to the Ministry's offices. The receipt of the acknowledgment, which the farmer should retain in his possession, is sufficient authorisation for him to start ploughing right away. Later on he will be visited by an Inspector of the Ministry, who may be consulted about any points that may arise in connection with his application. When the ploughing work has been done, and the land brought to a state of cleanliness and fertility for the sowing of a food crop, the Ministry should be notified immediately so that arrangements can be made for a final inspection. Subject to the requirements of the scheme being fulfilled in all these respects, payments of the grant will be made to farmers, and it is hoped to be able to commence making these payments at an early date.

ESSENTIAL PROVISIONS OF THE SCHEME.

For the benefit of those who are still in some doubt as to the requirements of the scheme the following notes, which have already been given wide publicity, are printed in this issue for general guidance.

The applicant must show to the satisfaction of the Ministry :—

- (1) that the land has been ploughed up during the period beginning not earlier than 4th May, 1939, and ending not later than 31st March, 1940 ;
- (2) that at the time when the ploughing up was begun the land had been under grass for a period of seven years or more ;
- (3) that after the ploughing up the land will be utilised for the growing of crops such as oats, barley, flax, potatoes, and where suitable, wheat.

It should be understood that such ploughing is intended to be over and above the normal rotation ploughing on the farm.

The grant made in respect of any land will be paid to the person at whose expense the land is ploughed up, e.g. persons taking land in conacre will normally be entitled to receive the grant.

Grants will not be payable on areas of less than two statute acres, and no grants will be payable on odd fractions of less than half-an-acre. Thus, the lowest payment to be made will be £4, and all payments will be multiples of £1.

Where oats and barley are sown for harvesting in 1940 on land for which an application for the ploughing-up grant has been made, these crops will be eligible for any subsidies which may become payable under the Oats and Barley Subsidy Scheme in respect of that year (1940).

Farmers who intend to take advantage of this scheme are reminded of the desirability of applying suitable fertilisers and lime, and of the facilities under the Land Fertility Scheme for assistance in the provision of lime and basic slag.

Farmers are strongly advised to consult their County War Agricultural Executive Officer as to the best course to pursue, having regard to the nature of the soil and the climatic and other conditions obtaining in the district concerned.

(2) COMPULSORY TILLAGE.

As announced in the September issue of this report the Tillage (Northern Ireland) General (No. 1) Order, 1939, requires that in 1940 each farmer in Northern Ireland must:—

(a) Cultivate at least one-tenth of his total arable area in addition to what was under crop in 1939.

(b) Have at least one-fifth of his total arable area under cultivation in 1940.

“Total arable area” means all the land in the occupation of a farmer, wherever such land is situated, which is fit to be ploughed up and cropped.

It should be carefully noted that, even if as much as two-fifths of the total arable area was cultivated in 1939, the occupier is required to put an additional one-tenth of the total arable area under cultivation in 1940. The limit beyond which he need not go is one-half of his total arable area under crops counting as a crop his first year’s rotation grass whether cut for hay or grazed.

PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR INCREASED TILLAGE.—The occupier of the holding is in each case responsible for carrying out the provisions of the Order, and for this purpose the occupier is the person who is rated for Poor Rate or who would now be liable for payment of rates on the holding had there been no Derating Act. Thus, if an occupier of land lets a field under a conacre agreement, the area of the field is regarded as part of his holding for the purpose of calculating his liability for increased tillage.

PLOUGHING OF LEA.—Land under first year’s hay will be reckoned as under cultivation if it forms part of a crop rotation but land ploughed up out of lea and sown out to grass would not be so reckoned. On the other hand, land ploughed up out of lea and sown with a crop, e.g., winter wheat in 1939 would be reckoned as cultivated in 1940.

EXEMPTIONS.—Provision is made in the Order for dealing with cases where full compliance with the Order would not be in the interests of the community. It must, however, be clearly understood that the provisions of the Order must be complied with in full unless in very exceptional cases. Such cases will only be considered if occupiers furnish full particulars to the Ministry in writing not later than 30th November, 1939.

FRUIT PLANTATIONS.—Fruit plantations, already established, will be regarded as cultivation for the purpose of the Order, provided that they are managed in accordance with the rules of good husbandry; for example, apple orchards would require to be sprayed, and also where necessary, manured and pruned.

ALLOTMENTS.—The Allotments Act (Northern Ireland), 1932, provides for the leasing of land by a County Borough, Borough, or Urban District Council, and for its cultivation in allotments by persons resident in the area controlled by the Local Authority. It is also provided in the Act that the Local Authority may purchase manures, seeds, and implements for re-sale to plot holders, subject to Regulations to be made by the Local Authority with the approval of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Town residents or groups of such residents desiring allotments should make application to the Clerk of the County Borough or Urban District in which they reside. The Central Allotments Committee, whose address is 29 Wellington Place, Belfast, is also willing to give advice and assistance in the organisation of allotments throughout Northern Ireland.

NOTES ON CROPS TO GROW.

WHEAT.—In districts where wheat can be successfully grown the area should be expanded as much as possible because: (a) it will be mainly autumn sown, thus distributing the tillage work; (b) farmers will get their wheat taken over at a fixed price. Consequently everything possible should be done before the beginning of November to sow as much land as is suitable with winter wheat.

BARLEY.—It is of the utmost necessity to increase the barley area to a substantial figure and the present area of 3,000 acres must be multiplied many times over. Every effort must be made to increase the area under barley this spring to 50,000 acres. The barley will be required for pig feeding so as to take the place of imported maize. In this connection it should be realised that it may be necessary to limit the amount of imported feeding stuffs supplied to farmers whose land was suitable for growing barley and who have failed to do so. The more barley a farmer grows the more pigs he will be able to maintain and the less he will be dependent on purchased foods. Some farmers have a prejudice against growing barley, but this was not always so. There was a time when barley was one of our principal grain crops.

One reason why farmers are reluctant to grow barley is, apparently, that the crop does not do well on a sour soil. This can, however, be remedied by the application of lime, and farmers will continue to get their lime at half price. A dressing of one to two tons per acre of lime should be given for the barley crop, and if the land is limed properly there should be no difficulty on most soils in getting a good crop of barley. The correct method to employ is as follows:

Lime should be applied after the land is ploughed and never before ploughing. This will ensure lime being near the roots of the young barley plants. Do not apply the lime and then plough—that is the wrong method and leads to the lime being buried so that the young roots have to go down several inches before reaching the lime.

OATS.—The increase in the area under oats cannot be too great in view of the importance of this crop as a food for all classes of stock including poultry, apart altogether from its value as an article of human consumption. When oats are grown on poor land about 4 cwts. per acre of the standard mixture of artificial manure for oats as recommended by the Ministry should be applied (see Leaflet No. 86).

FLAX.—It is unnecessary to emphasise the importance of increasing the acreage of flax. Every acre of flax that is grown will be wanted. The present acreage is about 20,000, and 50,000 acres must be sown in 1940. Steps are being taken to ensure an adequate and suitable supply of flax seed.

POTATOES.—The supreme value of the potato as food for the community cannot be over-estimated. Moreover, both pigs and poultry can be kept on a diet of barley, potatoes and oats, particularly if separated milk is available. Farmers should, therefore, grow more potatoes without hesitation. The crop is particularly suitable for following a rich wild white clover lea where oats would be likely to lodge.

TURNIPS, MANGELS, CABBAGE, KALE.—It is essential that the acreage under these crops should be increased, especially cabbage and kale. A good supply of these is necessary for keeping up milk production and conserving meal stuffs for pigs. Besides it is important that farmers should preserve the fertility and cleanliness of the land by employing a proper rotation of crops.

SILAGE.—A crop of silage, comprising oats, beans, peas and vetches, will provide valuable food for dairy cows and other stock, and its use will reduce the amount of meals required. The crop is very suitable for growing on land following rich wild white clover lea, and prepares the ground for the other crops in the rotation.

ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE TO FARMERS.

TRACTORS, AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS, SEEDS AND MANURES.—Some farmers confronted with the new requirements may find themselves short of implements and labour. The Ministry is, accordingly, arranging for a large number of additional tractors to be made available in Northern Ireland. Relatively few farmers will have enough work to keep a tractor employed wholtime, and of those who have sufficient work many already possess tractors. Consequently new tractors will be sold to farmers and others in districts where they are most needed. They will be sold through the usual trade

channels, and buyers should, therefore, place their orders with agents in the normal way. Conditions will be imposed on farmers requiring them to utilise the tractors for ploughing up and cultivating a specified minimum area either for themselves or others at fixed charges. They will also be required to cut a specified minimum area of grain crops (including their own crops) with a self binder. Those farmers who already possess tractors are urged not only to plough to the fullest extent themselves, but to arrange for the ploughing of land the property of others who may wish to hire a tractor. Full particulars of the tractor supply scheme will be announced as soon as possible.

Loans will be given by the Ministry for the purchase of tractors and other agricultural machinery and implements generally as well as for the purchase of seeds and fertilisers.

With regard to the labour problem, the Ministry is considering how far suitable labour can be diverted to the land, and arrangements are being made for training suitable men in the use of tractors and other agricultural machinery. In addition, the question of training a number of suitable women in tractor driving and farm work generally so as to form in Northern Ireland a branch of the Women's Land Army is receiving consideration.

PARTICULARS OF LOCAL ORGANISATION.

The Ministry has re-organised County Agricultural staffs which for the period of the War will be under the direct control of the Ministry. Their primary functions will be to encourage by every means in their power the development of food production on the land, and, in particular, to see that the provisions of the Compulsory Tillage Order are complied with. Officers will be available in each area to give advice to farmers on all matters connected with the tillage scheme, and farmers are advised in their own interest to get in touch with these officers straight away.

The addresses of the County Officers are as follows :—

Antrim :	The County War Agricultural Executive Officer, Ballymena.
Armagh :	The County War Agricultural Executive Officer, Armagh.
Down :	The County War Agricultural Executive Officer, Downpatrick.
Fermanagh :	The County War Agricultural Executive Officer, Enniskillen.
Londonderry :	The County War Agricultural Executive Officer, Coleraine.
Tyrone :	The County War Agricultural Executive Officer, Omagh.

MARKETING SCHEMES AND ENACTMENTS.

PIGS (PROVISIONAL PRICES) (NORTHERN IRELAND) ORDER, 1939.

PRICES FIXED AS FROM 27th SEPTEMBER, 1939.

An Order entitled the Pigs (Provisional Prices) (Northern Ireland) Order, 1939, has been made under Regulation 55 of the Defence Regulations, 1939. This Order provides that as from the 27th September, 1939, no person in Northern Ireland shall sell, or agree to sell, or offer or expose for sale, or buy or agree to buy or offer to buy, any pig for slaughter or curing except at the following prices :

Pigs other than Sows, Rigs, Stags and Boars.

Weighing up to c.1.2.2 dead weight	...	72/9	per	dead	cwt.
Weighing from c.1.2.3—c.2.0.0	...	68/-		„	
Weighing over c.2.0.0	...	64/-		„	
Sows or Pregnant Pigs	...	58/4		„	
Rigs	...	61/7		„	
Stags	...	44/10		„	
Boars	...	22/5		„	

Contracts and agreements made under the Provisions of the Bacon Industry Act (Northern Ireland), 1939, are, accordingly, now inoperative. The authorised deductions at present in force will continue to be made. These deductions are as follows :—

Pigs Marketing Board administrative levy, 8d. per pig.

Insurance deduction to cover insurance, in the event of a carcase being condemned as unfit for human consumption, 4d. per pig in the case of dead pigs, and 7d. per pig in the case of live pigs.

These prices are for delivery at a market or live pig collecting depot, or a railway station, as arranged between the buyer and seller. If live pigs are delivered by the seller to the buyer otherwise than as aforesaid the price of each pig shall be increased by any sum actually paid by the seller for any such delivery by rail, or, where no part of such delivery is by rail, the sum of 8d. per pig. (For current prices see overleaf).

PRICES FIXED AS FROM 14th OCTOBER, 1939.

By a further Order the following prices were fixed to take effect as from the 14th inst. :—

Pigs other than Sows, Rigs, Stags and Boars

Weighing up to c.1.2.2 dead weight	...	78/5 per dead cwt.
Weighing from c.1.2.3—c.2.0.0	...	74/- "
Weighing over c.2.0.0	...	69/8 "
Sows or Pregnant Pigs	...	58/4 "
Rigs	...	67/2 "
Stags	...	50/5 "
Boars	...	28/- "

The authorised deductions will continue to be made as previously.

GRADING STATISTICS.

(1) DEAD PIGS.

Table showing the percentages of pig carcasses for the Roll and Ham cure within the weight and grade classes indicated during July, 1939.

Under c.1.0.21		c.1.0.21 to c.1.1.13					c.1.1.14 to c.1.2.3					Totals
Suitable	Un-suitable	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	U.L. & U.F.	U.	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	U.L. & U.F.	U.	
.91	.14	2.15	1.19	.24	.16	.02	4.56	5.56	2.15	.92	.04	18.04

Grade A.				Grade B.				Grade C.				
1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	
7.75	19.85	3.67	.80	6.32	21.12	5.11	1.55	1.84	8.01	1.60	.36	77.98

Ungraded Carcasses.

Under Grade A measurements. U.L.	Over Grade C measurements U.F.	Wholly condemned U.1.	Wholly black, injured or damaged U.2.	Overweights, boars, sows, etc. X.	Partly Black Y.	
.06	2.52	.04	.56	.78	.02	3.98
					TOTAL	100%

These figures have been calculated from the purchase and grading statements which the curers furnished to the Ministry.

The standard price, as fixed by the Pig Industry Council, was lower than in June, and the realised price per cwt., less levy and contribution charges,

was reduced by 1/4d. to 59/8d. The average weight per pig was 2 lb. heavier at c.1.2.22, and the average price per carcase was 1/5d. less than in June at £5 0s. 11d.

(II) LIVE PIGS.

The following table gives the percentage results of an analysis of the purchase and grading statements furnished by Wiltshire Bacon Curers in respect of live pigs delivered on direct contract by producers during the month of August, 1939.

Weight Class.	Grade 1.	Grade 2.	Grade 3.	Unsuitable U.L. or U.F.	Total
Under c.1.0.0					.10
c.1.0.0 to c.1.0.20					.80
c.1.0.21 to c.1.2.3	40.70	34.26	10.22	4.79	89.97
	Grade A.	Grade B.	Grade C.		
c.1.2.4 to c.1.2.7	1.35	2.50	1.17	.20	5.22
c.1.2.8 to c.1.3.14	1.04	1.89	.87	.11	3.91
Over c.1.3.14					—
				Total	100%

The average net price per cwt. in respect of these deliveries works out at £3 2s. 5d. after making allowance for insurance and contribution to the Pigs Marketing Board.

The average weight works out at c.1.1.20, the net average price per pig being £4 9s. 3d.

COST OF STANDARD PIG RATION.

The average retail cash price per cwt. of the standard ration for the sixteen weeks' period ended 23rd September, 1939, was 8/4d. The average price for the similar period ended 19th August, was 8/3½d. These figures have been calculated by the Ministry from returns collected from ten representative centres in Northern Ireland.

The following is the ration upon which the feeding cost is based :—

Maize Meal	...	...	...	30%
Barley Meal	...	...	...	30%
White Pollards	...	...	...	20%
White Bran	...	...	...	10%
Meat Meal (60% Protein)	...	...	...	10%

MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS ACTS (N.I.) 1934 TO 1938.

DETERMINATION OF THE JOINT MILK COUNCIL FOR NORTHERN IRELAND IN RESPECT OF THE PERIOD 1st OCTOBER, 1939, TO 30th SEPTEMBER, 1940.

PART I. PRODUCER'S PRICES.

(1) During the periods specified hereunder milk of Grade A, Grade B, and Grade C, sold otherwise than in bottles or cartons by the holder of a Producer's licence (hereinafter referred to as the "Producer"), to the holder of a Distributor's licence (hereinafter referred to as the "Distributor"), shall be sold at the following prices for level quantities of not less than two gallons per day delivered at the distributor's premises:—

1st October, 1939, to 30th April, 1940, inclusive.

Grade A—not less than 1/5d. per gallon.

Grade B—1/3d. per gallon.

Grade C—1/3d. per gallon.

1st May, 1940, to 30th September, 1940, inclusive.

Grade A—not less than 1/3d. per gallon.

Grade B—1/1d. per gallon.

Grade C—1/1d. per gallon.

(2) Where milk is bottled by the Producer, the Distributor shall pay to the Producer not less than 1½d. per gallon in respect of this service, bottles and caps being supplied by the Distributor.

(3) The above prices are subject to a deduction in respect of carriage (hereinafter referred to as a "Collecting Charge"), when this service is performed by the Distributor.

(4) The maximum collecting charges which may be deducted from the above prices are as follows:—

(a) When the distance between the Distributor's premises and the point at which the milk is collected or the Producer's farm (whichever is the nearer to the Distributor's premises)—

				per gallon
does not exceed 5 miles	...	...	...	¾d.
exceeds 5 miles but does not exceed 10 miles	...	...	...	1d.
exceeds 10 miles but does not exceed 15 miles	...	...	...	1½d.
exceeds 15 miles but does not exceed 20 miles	...	...	...	1½d.
exceeds 20 miles but does not exceed 25 miles	...	...	...	1½d.
exceeds 25 miles but does not exceed 35 miles	...	...	...	2d.
for each 10 miles or part thereof in excess of 35 miles an additional charge of	...	...	...	½d.

- (b) Where the Distributor's premises are situated in the County Borough of Belfast, the scale of maximum collecting charges set forth above shall apply with the substitution of the General Post Office for the Distributor's premises.
- (c) Where milk is delivered by rail to Belfast County Borough so as to arrive after 9.30 a.m. the Distributor may deduct $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per gallon from the price payable to the vendor, in addition to any collecting charge which may be deducted in respect of the carriage of the milk by the Distributor from the railway terminus in Belfast County Borough to his premises.

PART II. SALE BY CONTRACT.

(1) From the 1st day of October, 1939, until the 30th day of September, 1940, inclusive, all milk of Grade A, Grade B, or Grade C sold by a Producer to a Distributor in quantities of not less than two gallons per day shall be bought and sold under contract duly registered by the Joint Milk Council (hereinafter referred to as "the Council"). Subject to the provisions of Section Seven of the Milk and Milk Products Act (Northern Ireland), 1934, all such contracts shall be in the form prescribed in the Schedule to this Determination, or in a form to a like effect, and the terms of such contracts shall be in accordance with the provisions of Part I of this Determination entitled, "Producer's Prices". All such contracts shall be submitted to the Council for registration, and shall be void and unenforceable until so registered.

(2) Subject to the provisions of Section Seven of the Milk and Milk Products Act (Northern Ireland), 1934, the Council may refuse to register a Contract which is not in accordance with the aforesaid terms or in the prescribed form.

(3) The Council may refuse to register a contract if one of the parties thereto has previously been a party to a contract registered with the Council and has, in the opinion of the Council unreasonably failed in the performance of the terms thereof.

(4) The Distributor shall, at the time when payment is being made to the Producer for milk supplied under contract, forward to the Producer a statement showing the period and the number of gallons to which the payment relates, and shall retain for the information of the Council a copy of such statement.

ELECTION OF PRODUCERS' AND DISTRIBUTORS' MEMBERS TO THE JOINT MILK COUNCIL.

The fourth election of members to the Joint Milk Council, established under Section 5(1) of the Milk and Milk Products Act (Northern Ireland), 1934, will be held in December next. Under Section 5(2) of the Act the Council is constituted as follows :—

Three members appointed by the Minister of Agriculture, of whom such one as the said Minister may designate shall be the chairman of the Council ;

Three members appointed by the Minister of Home Affairs and being representatives of milk consumers ;

Seven members elected, in accordance with the prescribed regulations, by holders of Producers' licences ;

Four members elected, in accordance with the prescribed regulations, by holders of Distributors' licences.

The term of office of the members of the present Milk Council will terminate on the 31st December next, and, accordingly, it will be necessary to hold an election to determine the new representatives of distributors and producers. This election will be held next December, and the new Council will take office at the 1st January, 1940. The seven members to be elected in accordance with the prescribed regulations by holders of Producers' licences will be elected in respect of the following electoral divisions :—

- (1) Two members elected by persons who hold Producers' licences in respect of premises situated in the electoral area comprising the Administrative County of Antrim ;
- (2) Two members elected by persons who hold Producers' licences in respect of premises situated in the electoral area comprising the County Borough of Belfast and the Administrative County of Down ;
- (3) One member elected by persons who hold Producers' licences in respect of premises situated in the electoral area comprising the County Borough of Londonderry and the Administrative County of Londonderry ;
- (4) Two members elected by persons who hold Producers' licences in respect of premises situated in the electoral area comprising the Administrative Counties of Armagh, Fermanagh, and Tyrone.

For the election of members by holders of Distributors' licences the register will be divided into three divisions as follows :—

Division I.—Distributors who on the last day for the giving of notice of election had contracted for the purchase of milk from one or more Producers, and who on or before the 30th September, 1939, had remitted to the Ministry licence fees due in respect of not less than 100,000 gallons of milk purchased during the twelve months ended on the 31st August, 1939.

Division II.—Distributors who, on the last day for the giving of notice of election, had contracted for the purchase of milk from one or more Producers and were not entitled to be registered in Division I.

Division III.—All distributors who were not entitled to be registered in Electoral Divisions I or II.

The number of members to be elected in respect of each of the foregoing divisions is as follows:—

Division I—2 members.

Division II—1 member.

Division III—1 member.

The candidates for election in each division will be elected by the holders of distributors' licences who are registered in that electoral division. In the case of the election of members for the electoral divisions I and II, voters will be entitled to one vote for each gallon of milk purchased from one or more holders of Producers' licences during the twelve months ended on the 31st August, 1939, and in respect of which any Producers' licences payable by him had been remitted to the Ministry on or before the 30th September, 1939. In the case of voters in electoral division III, each voter will be entitled to give one vote.

Notice of the date of the holding of the election, and the last day for the receipt of nominations, and of the manner in which nomination papers may be obtained, will be published in the Press at least fourteen days before the last day for the receipt of nominations.

MARKETING OF EGGS ACTS (N.I.) 1924—1937.

NORTHERN IRELAND EGG PRICES.

The following table shows the prices fixed by the Ministry and payable by licensed wholesale dealers, for eggs purchased from producers during the weeks specified, as compared with the prices fixed for the corresponding weeks of 1938.

			1939		1938	
			Hen eggs per lb.*		Duck eggs per doz.*	
			s.	d.	s.	d.
September 2nd	...		0	11½	1	0½
" 9th	...		1	0	1	0½
" 16th	...		1	0½	1	0½
" 23rd	...		1	0½	1	0
" 30th	...		1	0½	0	11½

*Where hen eggs are delivered by the producer to the packing store of a licensed Wholesale dealer of Class A an additional ½d. per lb. is payable; in the case of duck eggs an additional ½d. is payable for each complete dozen so delivered.

Payment on a quality basis came into operation during the week ended 5th March, 1938.

The following were the standard deductions:—

Hen Eggs : Seconds and soiled eggs, ½d. per egg; Rejects 1½d. per egg.

Duck eggs : Rejects, 1½d. per egg up to and including week ended 16th September, afterwards 1½d. per egg.

THE CATTLE INDUSTRY (EMERGENCY PROVISIONS) ACTS, 1934 AND 1935 AND THE LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY ACT, 1937.

NUMBERS CERTIFIED FOR SUBSIDY.

The numbers of fat cattle certified for payment of subsidy in August, 1939, have been as follows :—

	August, 1939.					Corresponding totals in	
	Home-bred		Imported		Total	August, 1938	August, 1937
	Ordinary Grade	Quality Grade	Ordinary Grade	Quality Grade			
England ...	18,241	38,774	4,705	23,609	85,329	89,210	88,511
Wales ...	1,818	3,092	54	296	5,260	5,659	5,327
Scotland ...	2,178	13,832	1,038	10,630	27,678	28,979	26,943
Northern Ireland	5,353	2,698	575	534	9,160	8,106	7,101
United Kingdom	27,590	58,396	6,372	35,069	127,427	131,954	127,882

As the great majority of fat stock markets are held on the early days of the week the rate of marketing of fat cattle cannot be judged accurately from the number of animals marketed in a calendar month. For comparative purposes appropriate weights are applied by the Livestock Commission to each day of the week, and the figures for each calendar month are adjusted accordingly, so as to allow as far as possible for the fact that a large number of markets are held on Mondays, and that the number of markets held decreases day by day as the week proceeds. The adjusted figures for August, 1939, 1938 and 1937 are 122,816, 119,583, and 119,471 respectively.

AVERAGE PRICES OF CERTIFIED CATTLE.

The average prices per live cwt. of certified cattle in August, 1939, have been :—

	August, 1939.						Corresponding averages in	
	Ordinary Grade		Quality Grade		Average		August, 1938	August, 1937
	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.		
England ...	37	4	40	9	39	11	39 10	41 8
Wales ...	37	2	40	5	39	3	39 2	40 10
England and Wales ...	37	4	40	9	39	10	39 10	41 8
Scotland ...	37	11	43	6	42	11	42 1	47 11
Northern Ireland ...	35	9	37	1	36	3	36 0	39 10
United Kingdom ...	37	1	41	4	40	3	40 1	42 10

PRICES OF FAT STOCK IN GREAT BRITAIN.

The following maximum prices of fat stock were fixed by an Order of the Ministry of Food, and are now in operation :

Cattle

Quality	Killing out percentage	57 or over	48/- per live cwt.
Quality	" "	54-56	44/- "
Ordinary	" "	57 or over	44/- "
Ordinary	" "	54-56	40/- "
Others having	" "	53 and under	37/- "
Lambs	... 11½d.	per lb. estimated dressed carcase weight.	
Sheep	... 10d.	" "	" "
Ewes and Rams	6d.	" "	" "
Pigs	... 13/-	per score up to 10 score until 13th inst., then 14/-	
		12/6 per score above that weight until 13th inst., then 13/6	

AGRICULTURAL NOTES.

SEASONAL FARM NOTES.

POTATO PITS.—Potato pits which were made at the beginning of this month, or earlier, should now be earthed up with a layer of earth sufficient to protect the tubers from frost during the winter. Care should be taken to ensure that the pit is provided with adequate drainage, and that there is no possibility of water lying around the pit.

POTATO HOUSES.—When tubers are stored in houses, attention should be paid to the question of protecting the tubers from damage by frost. To do this it would be advisable to cover the tubers with a layer of hay or straw, especially where the houses have iron roofs. All windows and doors should be fixed so that there is no possibility of rain beating in on the tubers or of the tubers becoming sunburnt.

SEED POTATOES.—Farmers should bear in mind that the use of first class seed is essential for the production of maximum crops, and it is urged that special care be taken in the selection and storage of tubers for seed, and that healthy stocks be kept properly isolated. The seed tubers should be put in boxes and stored in a dry, well ventilated and frost-proof store.

WINTER WHEAT.—It is not yet too late to sow winter wheat, and in this connection farmers are reminded of the necessity to increase the acreage of wheat so as to reduce dependence on imported foods.

Squarehead's Master is a variety which can be depended upon to produce satisfactory yields under a wide range of conditions, while Queen Wilhelmina will produce good yields if sown on rich soils of the type usually considered

suitable for wheat growing. When autumn wheat is grown immediately after a root crop in the rotation it is usually unnecessary to apply any manures to the wheat in autumn, although a backward crop may receive a dressing of a nitrogenous manure such as sulphate of ammonia at the rate of from 1 to $1\frac{1}{2}$ cwt. per statute acre in spring.

Where the wheat crop follows another corn crop the ground should receive a dressing of a mixture of 2 cwt. superphosphate with 1 cwt. 30 per cent. potash salts per statute acre in autumn when the wheat is sown, and a dressing of a nitrogenous manure at the rate of from 1 to $1\frac{1}{2}$ cwt. per statute acre applied in spring. Arrangements should be made immediately, if not already done, with regard to obtaining supplies of wheat seed from seeds merchants. In order to obtain maximum yields the seed should be dressed with one of the preparations specially manufactured for preventing seed-borne diseases such as smut or leaf-stripe.

LAND FERTILITY SCHEME.—The Land Fertility Scheme is still in operation, and farmers should arrange to obtain supplies of Basic Slag for application to grassland which cannot be ploughed up so as to make the best use of such land. In connection with the increase of the acreage under barley, lime should be obtained for the ground intended for barley, except where the land has been limed within the last few years. The lime should not, however, be actually applied to the land until after it has been ploughed.

PLOUGHING.—The requirements of the compulsory Tillage Order, and the fact that the period during which old grassland must be ploughed so as to qualify for the Subsidy of £2 per acre, expires on 31st March next, make it imperative for farmers to push ahead ploughing operations with all speed. The longer this work is delayed the more difficult it will be to cope with the rush of spring work, and to prepare a satisfactory seed bed for the crop. It should be the aim of every land owner to get as much of his land for cropping in 1940 ploughed up while the days are still reasonably long and the ground dry.

The many preparations for resuming tillage work which will be necessary in the case of those farms on which tillage farming had been suspended should be made without delay. For example, the fencing of fields to be tilled may be necessary, tillage implements may have to be obtained, and a plan drawn up for the reorganisation of the running of the entire farm.

In framing proposals for tillage work it should be remembered that, apart from the national necessity to produce more food at home, the provision of home-grown food for farm livestock is of the utmost importance. It is appreciated that on many farms where attention was given in recent years to the improvement of the grassland there are excellent pastures which, if there was no emergency, could remain in grass. No field, however, is too good to till

for the production of essential food crops, and that such is the case would be a weak argument to advance. On the other hand, where there are fields of very good pasture on a farm, and other fields of less satisfactory pasture, but which are suitable for the production of say, oats, barley, potatoes, flax, etc., the latter should first be broken up and the former retained in the meantime for grazing.

Stock owners should make every effort to maintain the size of their herds and flocks, and this can best be done by arranging for the production on the home farm of the bulk of the food which will be required to feed them during the winter months. By so doing the dependence on purchased food stuffs will be considerably lessened, and the farm made self-supporting to a large degree.

Grassland which is to be ploughed up this winter should be grazed now as closely as possible. This not only makes best use of the grass, but is helpful in preventing attacks by pests such as leather jackets. It also enables the ploughman to do better work and to cover the grass completely. Early ploughing is best. Land ploughed early gets the full benefit of winter frosts, which mellow the land and assist in the preparation of a seed bed in spring. When ploughing lea land a skim coulter should be used on the plough so as to turn the grass underneath the sod and prevent growth appearing between the sods; this is particularly necessary where ploughing of lea is done early.

Lea land intended to be limed should be ploughed early so as to enable the liming to be done. The liming of lea ground for all crops except potatoes is recommended, and it is absolutely essential in the case of barley. The lime should never be applied to the grass field before it is ploughed, but always to the top of the ploughed land. In this way the lime is kept near the surface where it will be within reach of the roots of the crop.

FARMYARD MANURE.—During the autumn and winter large quantities of farmyard manure have to be stored on the farm, and special care should be taken to ensure that none of the valuable ingredients are wasted.

The manure should be kept in a compact heap, and be kept well consolidated so that water cannot drain through it easily.

Surface drainage water should not be allowed to accumulate around the heap, and the liquid which drains from the heap should not be allowed to be washed away into drains, but should be conserved by absorbing it in bedding material or peat mould.

SEASONAL LIVESTOCK NOTES.

WINTER FEEDING.—There is an abundant aftermath in most districts this season, as well as plentiful supplies of grass, and in order to save fodder supplies cattle should be kept out as long as possible. Dairy cows will benefit

from a few hours out during the day when the weather is dry and mild. Store cattle and young horses should be kept out as long as possible and, where an open shed is available for them, they may be allowed to remain out all winter, receiving a supply of straw during very frosty weather or when the ground is covered with snow. Stores which lie out all winter will thrive better in spring than those which are kept confined in unsuitable houses.

WINTER RATIONS.—Examples of rations designed to contain as much home-produced food as possible were detailed in last month's report.

SHEEP.—Every care should be taken to keep the breeding flock in good health, so that they may produce and rear a good crop of lambs.

Rams, especially those expected to attend to more than 10 or 12 ewes, should receive a daily feed of crushed oats.

LIVER FLUKE DISEASE.—Precautionary measures should be taken against this disease by keeping the sheep on dry, well-drained fields. Where outbreaks of the disease are anticipated the ewes should be fasted for a night, and each animal dosed with 1 capsule containing 1 cubic centimetre of carbon tetrachloride, next morning. Sheep should not receive hand-feeding for at least four days before receiving carbon tetrachloride. For further particulars regarding liver fluke disease see Leaflet No. 24.

FOOTROT.—Footrot is liable to be a source of trouble in sheep at this time of year, and immediately any signs of lameness appear amongst the flock the affected sheep should be examined and treatment given. In severe cases the horn of the hoof should be pared with a knife and a dressing consisting of 1 oz. powdered copper sulphate, 1 oz. turpentine, and $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of lard applied, and the foot bandaged. The remainder of the flock should be driven through a foot bath containing a 10 per cent. solution of copper sulphate (1 lb. of copper sulphate in 1 gallon of water) and the depth of the solution should be adjusted so that it will not come in contact with the skin above the hoof.

Further information on the treatment of footrot is given in Leaflet No. 63.

PIGS.—Unsaleable potatoes should be boiled and fed to pigs as soon as possible to prevent loss through decay of the tubers. Potatoes may be added to the meal mixture at the rate of 1 lb. potatoes to 1 lb. of meal mixture for younger pigs, and up to 4 lb. potatoes to 1 lb. meal mixture for older pigs.

YOUNG PIGS.—Winter litters require more attention than those born in summer, and special attention should be paid to the management and feeding of the young pigs. The farrowing pen should be warm and comfortable and free from draughts. The young pigs should get warmed separated milk to drink from a very early age and, as they get older, meals should be given with the milk. A feeding creep should be provided so that the young pigs can eat without interference from the sow. A small quantity of boiled potatoes may be given as the pigs get older.

HOUSING OF PIGS.—Fattening pigs require to be kept warm if a maximum thrive is to be obtained. Large pig houses divided off in pens are liable to be cold, and in order to maintain a sufficiently high temperature, boards or posts should be placed on the division walls so as to cover the portion of the pen in which the pigs lie, and straw or rushes placed on the boards. In the case of small houses with iron roofs some insulation could be obtained by nailing netting wire to the rafters and packing straw or dry rushes between the iron and the wire.

SEASONAL POULTRY-KEEPING NOTES.

EGG PRODUCTION.—It is of the greatest of importance that egg production should be increased to the maximum at the present time, and the increase should be attained rather by the adoption of efficient methods of management and feeding than by a large increase in the numbers of poultry kept where this increase would result in over-crowding. Where there is room for the expansion of the poultry flock, however, arrangements should be made to hatch out larger numbers of chickens this winter. Special care should be taken to avoid disease when purchasing hatching eggs, and in this connection breeders are reminded of the Ministry's Register of Accredited Poultry Farms which will be published in a few weeks. This Register contains the names and addresses of persons who have hatching eggs for sale, and whose poultry have been carefully examined to ensure that only farms with healthy stock have been placed on the Register. The birds on accredited farms have been blood-tested and carriers of Bacillary White Diarrhoea disease removed where necessary.

FEEDING AND MANAGEMENT OF PULLETS.—Full production can only be obtained by provision of adequate feeding, combined with comfortable and suitable housing. It is a great help if the houses are big enough and well enough lighted to hold the hens comfortably so that they may be kept in the house on wet, cold days. Ample litter should be provided for the hens to scratch through. Great care should be taken in the feeding of the birds that they should not be given more mash than they can eat within a reasonable time, otherwise the food lying in the trough will become sour and may do considerable harm to the birds. Forcing foods or condiments should not be used.

BREEDING STOCK.—The breeding flock should have been selected and placed in permanent quarters by now. It is important that the breeding flock should not be confined but have free range over clean pastures. Where the grass is bare, green food, in the form of cabbage leaves, turnip leaves, etc., should be given. Milk should be given to the breeders, as it is a very beneficial food and aids in producing healthy and hardy chickens. Useful hints on the management of breeding birds are given in Leaflet No. 83.

HATCHING.—Where there is suitable accommodation for rearing chickens during the winter hatching should be commenced as soon as possible, and the birds from the early hatches fattened in spring and sold for table purposes. Should supplies of oil for incubators be limited it may be necessary to hatch out eggs with broody hens. About twelve hens could be expected to hatch out enough birds to fill a brooder with accommodation for one hundred chickens.

PURCHASE OF EGGS FOR HATCHING.—Only eggs produced by a flock which has been blood tested and found to be free from carriers of Bacillary White Diarrhoea disease should be purchased for hatching. Such eggs can be obtained from County Poultry Stations or Accredited Poultry Farms.

Lists giving the names and addresses of holders of Poultry Stations and of the owners of Accredited Farms can be obtained, free, on request from the Ministry.

SELECTION AND STORAGE OF EGGS FOR HATCHING.—If good hatching results are to be expected it is important that attention should be paid to the selection and storage of the eggs. On no account should eggs under 2 oz. in weight, abnormally large eggs, or eggs which are badly shaped or have thin shells, be set. An effort should be made to have eggs for setting as fresh as possible and at the most not more than one week old. If at all possible the eggs for hatching should be tested by the light test to ascertain their internal quality, if there are hair cracks in the shells, and, incidentally, if they are fresh. Eggs showing the yolk against the shell at one side, having abnormal air spaces, having meat spots or blood spots, or having hair cracks in the shells should not be set.

During storage the eggs should be kept in an airy room with a fairly even temperature of not less than 40 degrees or more than 70 degrees Fahrenheit. Excessive evaporation from the eggs should be avoided, as this is detrimental to hatching results. This can be largely prevented by placing the eggs in fresh bran or chaff or even wrapping them in newspapers. It is also beneficial to turn the eggs once daily during storage. A suitable and convenient receptacle for storing hatching eggs is an ordinary egg case. If the lid of the case is securely fastened, the eggs can be quickly turned by turning the case over each day.

MANAGEMENT OF INCUBATORS.—The results of hatches depend to a considerable extent on the running of the incubator. If the incubator is not working properly, or if it is not well attended, the result of the hatch will be disappointing. The incubator should be carefully examined at the beginning of the season and the capsule and thermometer tested. The lamp burner should be cleaned and a new wick fitted if necessary. In the case of machines having a moisture device with a wick it will be necessary to replace this wick if the

existing one has got hard, as it will not conduct water when in that condition. The felts of the machine should also be examined and replaced by new ones if they are found to be hard and tightly compressed. It should be remembered that a certain amount of fresh air is expected to filter through the felts when they are in position in the machine, and that if their condition is such as to prevent air passing through they will prevent good hatches being obtained.

The incubator should be set perfectly level, using a spirit level. If the machine is not level, a uniform air temperature cannot be maintained and poor hatches will likely result. The incubator should be placed away from the walls and on a slatted floor, if not provided with legs, to ensure a thorough circulation of air all round it.

Further hints on the running of incubators are given in Leaflet No. 20.

INCUBATOR ROOM.—The room in which the incubator is placed should be well ventilated, but free from draughts, and constructed in such a way that extremes of temperature will not occur, and if possible a temperature between 60 and 70 degrees Fahrenheit should be maintained in the room.

FATTENING TURKEYS.—Turkeys intended for sale during the winter should be fed liberally from now onwards. Two feeds of soft mash made up with separated milk or buttermilk should be given daily. A supply of grain should be fed in the evening just before the birds go to roost.

BREEDING TURKEYS.—Turkeys for breeding should be selected now and kept apart from the fattening flock. They should have plenty of exercise, and should receive body building foods rather than fattening foods so as to keep them in a good, fit condition.

TABLE CHICKENS.—This is a suitable time to hatch eggs for the production of early table chickens. The best breed for this purpose is Light Sussex or first crosses between that breed and a general purpose breed such as the White Wyandotte or the Rhode Island Red. If a cross is to be used the male should be of the Light Sussex breed, as such mating will give birds which have many of the characteristics of that breed.

SEASONAL GARDEN AND ORCHARD NOTES.

In the present emergency it is incumbent on all who have gardens, or small plots of ground capable of producing vegetables, to endeavour to augment the food supply by growing an increased amount of plain vegetables such as cabbage, lettuce, peas, beans, carrots, parsnips, etc. Advantage should be taken of every opportunity to prepare the ground thoroughly, for success in vegetable growing largely depends on thorough preparation of the soil. Efforts should be made to store or otherwise preserve existing supplies of both fruit and vegetables for future use.

LIFTING AND STORING CARROTS AND BEET.—Carrots and beet sown in April and May last will now be full grown and should, therefore, be lifted and the roots stored. Great care should be taken in lifting the beet to ensure that no damage is caused which would result in the roots bleeding, as much of their value would thus be lost. The leaves should be twisted off instead of being cut off with a knife, which, however, can be done in the case of carrots. Both carrots and beet can be stored between layers of sand or dry soil in a moderately dry place, where they will not be exposed to winter rains. Parsnips may be lifted now and stored in the same way, or they may be left in the ground and lifted as required.

POTATOES.—Maincrop potatoes should be lifted now, and diseased or damaged tubers should be removed. Sound tubers only should be stored. If they are to be stored in houses care should be taken to ensure that the houses used are frost proof and rat proof. The "seed" for next year should be selected at digging time and placed in sprouting boxes.

DIGGING AND TRENCHING.—As the vegetable ground becomes vacant it should be manured and dug or trenched as required. Garden refuse such as old vegetable leaves, decayed annual weeds, and any other soft (not woody) rubbish may be incorporated as the work proceeds.

CELERY.—The celery should be given the final earthing-up about the middle of October. The earth should be made firm round the necks of the plants and sloped with a spade so as to throw the rain away from the plants.

APPLES.—The picking and storing of apples should be completed as soon as possible. Only sound fruit should be brought into the store. Windfalls and badly blemished apples should be disposed of as soon as possible.

PLANTING FRUIT TREES.—Supplies of fruit trees and fruit bushes to fill up blanks in existing plantations should be ordered from the nurserymen without delay. By placing the order early there is a better chance of obtaining satisfactory plants than there is when the plants are ordered late in the planting season. Care should be taken when ordering raspberry canes to ensure that these are obtained from stocks which are free of virus diseases such as Mosaic. Planting can be carried out from now onwards whenever the ground is moderately dry.

PRUNING.—If the fruiting wood of black currants, raspberries and loganberries was removed immediately after the fruit was gathered as advised then, there should be little to do now beyond the removal of overcrowding branches and canes. The canes of raspberries and loganberries should be tied into position as soon as possible.

SPRAYING.—Supplies of materials for spraying fruit trees should be ordered now so that advantage of every favourable opportunity can be taken to carry out this work.

FLOWERING PLANTS.—Plants of dahlias, begonias and geraniums should be lifted before they are damaged by frost. The dahlias and tuberous-rooted begonias must be stored in a frost-proof building, while fibrous-rooted begonias and geraniums may be potted up and grown on in a glass house for the winter.

Chrysanthemums grown in the soil out-of-doors during the summer should be lifted now and replanted in the soil of the house. The house should be kept closed for a couple of days until the plants begin to root again. Afterwards the houses should be well ventilated on all favourable occasions.

GLASSHOUSES.—These should be thoroughly cleansed as they become vacant, using a good disinfectant such as emulsified cresylic acid for the purpose. The ventilators must be kept wide open during the process, but afterwards they should be kept closed for at least 48 hours. The houses must be well ventilated before any green plants are brought into them again. Where possible the houses should be devoted to the production of lettuce rather than left idle between two tomato crops.

BEEES.—Stocks of bees should be examined, and if there is any shortage of food supply this should be made good by placing a cake of candy on the top of the bar frames immediately over the clustered bees. A fresh cake of candy should be given as required. Candy can be obtained from most merchants who supply bee-keeping requisites. As a preventive measure against Acarine disease all stocks of bees should be treated with "Frow's Mixture" early in the winter. Particulars of the treatment are given in Leaflet No. 76.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMINDERS.

GENERAL.

LEAFLETS.—A full list of the Leaflets issued by the Ministry is given on the last page of this Report. These leaflets contain useful information on various farming problems, and copies can be had from the Ministry, free, on request.

LICENSING OF BULLS AND BOARS.—Farmers should note that the schemes providing for the licensing of bulls and boars are still in operation in Northern Ireland, and no bull or boar may be kept for service unless a licence has been obtained previously from the Ministry. Applications for licences for bulls calved during the first six months of this year must be made to the Ministry before the 31st December, 1939, and applications for licences for boars farrowed on or before 30th September, 1939, must also be made before the 31st December, 1939. Application forms may be obtained from any Police Barracks or direct from the Ministry.

ACCREDITED POULTRY FARMS.—The Ministry's Register of Accredited Poultry Farms will be issued early in November, and copies may be obtained, free, on application to the Ministry.

COUNTY POULTRY STATIONS.—Lists giving the names and addresses of the holders of County Poultry Stations will soon be available, when copies can be obtained, free, from the Ministry or the County Agricultural Executive Officer.

SALE AND FELLING OF GROWING TIMBER.

There appears to be some misapprehension on the part of timber merchants and owners of growing trees in Northern Ireland as to the effect of Government Control measures on private dealings in such trees.

The Ministry, on behalf of the Timber Controller, desires to state clearly that it is still open to merchants to negotiate in the ordinary course of trade for the acquisition of such standing timber as they may require, subject always to the prior necessity of obtaining a licence from the Timber Control Division of the Ministry in respect of each separate lot which it is proposed to purchase or fell.

The matter of price is also a subject for negotiation between the owner of the trees and the prospective purchaser, always provided that the maximum prices prescribed for the various classes of trees in the Control of Growing Trees (No. 2) Order, 1939, are not exceeded. The price agreed will naturally depend on the quality of the trees offered and the cost of removal which would vary according to the distance of the timber from the road, the compact or scattered nature of the various lots or parcels offered and the accessibility of the timber generally.

Copies of the Control of Growing Trees (No. 2) Order, 1939, which fixes the maximum prices at which growing trees may be sold, may be obtained from any bookseller or from His Majesty's Stationery Office, 80, Chichester Street, Belfast, price 1½d. post free.

In view of the urgent demand for timber for purposes associated with the production of essential commodities such as mining timber and boxes for the marketing of agricultural produce, the Ministry on behalf of the Timber Controller desires to suggest to owners of trees that they should facilitate the provision of supplies by selling to merchants on the basis of an agreed price within the approved scale such as will yield a reasonable return, having regard to the situation and quality of the trees. Timber merchants for their part are urged to allow the most favourable terms possible to sellers consistent with the considerations which have already been mentioned.

0 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100

SHORT COURSES OF TRAINING IN MOTOR TRACTOR DRIVING.

The Ministry of Agriculture is prepared to receive applications from young men for short courses of training in driving motor tractors and the use of tractor implements, to be held at Greenmount Agricultural College, Muckamore, County Antrim. Preference will be given to farmers who intend to purchase motor tractors, to the sons or employees of such farmers, and to men who have experience of motor engines or who have prospects of employment as tractor drivers. No fees will be charged. Full particulars can be obtained from :—

The Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture,
Stormont, Belfast.

Envelopes should be marked "Tractor Courses".

AGRICULTURAL INDEX NUMBERS.

MONTHLY INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES OF INDIVIDUAL COMMODITIES.

(Corrected for Seasonal Variation).

(Base 1927-29 = 100).

Commodity	1939				1938	1937
	September	August	July	June	September	September
Cattle : Fat ...	*	81	82	82	79	90
Store ...	95	89	90	87	86	89
Cows : Fat ...	69	67	68	65	67	77
Sheep & Lambs: Fat	66	50	49	50	55	71
Bacon Pigs ...	*	77†	80	80	89	87
Hens and Chickens	71	68	66	74	65	73
Ducks ...	91	92	89	88	95	93
Eggs ...	108	101	97	112	104	101
Milk :						
For Manufacture	*	87	88	88	83	81
Whole ...	109	117	125	121	107	99
All ...	*	94	97	96	90	86
Farmers' Butter ...	87	80	81	79	86	76
Wool ...	72	73	70	66	54	118
Potatoes ...	101	71	78	67	84	86
Oats ...	83	61	61	61	76	93
Hay ...	107	91	83	83	81	91
Oat Straw ...	86	84	81	94	89	93
Grass Seed :						
Perennial ...	99	113	—	—	120	62
Italian ...	102	96	—	—	96	27
Mixed ...	99	133	—	—	79	48
All ...	97	113	—	—	97	55

Revised Index Numbers taking Account of Payments under the Cattle Subsidy, the Wheat Act, and Government Payments for Milk.

Cattle : Fat ...	*	94	94	94	93	102
Milk :						
For Manufacture	*	108	108	107	100	89
All ...	*	110	112	110	102	92

* Not yet available.

† Provisional.

MONTHLY INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES OF INDIVIDUAL COMMODITIES.

(Uncorrected for Seasonal Variation).

(Base 1927-29 = 100).

Commodity	1939				1938	1937
	September	August	July	June	September	September
Cattle : Fat ...	*	80	85	87	74	84
Store ...	95	91	93	91	86	90
Cows : Fat ...	65	64	66	67	63	73
Sheep & Lambs : Fat	59	45	48	53	50	65
Bacon Pigs ...	*	75†	77	80	85	83
Hens and Chickens	66	61	64	73	61	69
Ducks ...	88	91	89	87	93	92
Eggs ...	122	103	83	80	117	112
Milk :						
For Manufacture	*	77	74	73	79	78
Whole ...	104	104	104	104	104	96
All ...	*	84	82	81	86	83
Farmers' Butter ...	83	74	74	75	82	72
Wool ...	69	70	67	64	53	113
Potatoes ...	104	82	68	72	86	88
Oats ...	79	69	67	66	73	87
Hay ...	103	90	90	88	78	88
Oat Straw ...	88	84	80	88	90	94
Grass Seed :						
Perennial ...	93	93	—	—	108	58
Italian ...	83	88	—	—	74	22
Mixed ...	97	109	—	—	75	46
All ...	90	96	—	—	87	50

Revised Index Numbers taking Account of Payments under the Cattle Subsidy, the Wheat Act, and Government Payments for Milk.

Cattle : Fat ...	*	93	98	100	87	95
Milk :						
For Manufacture	*	96	92	89	95	85
All ...	*	98	95	93	98	88

* Not yet available.

† Provisional.

PRICES USED IN THE CALCULATION OF THE INDEX NUMBERS.

Commodity			1939				1938	1937
	1927-29		Sept.	August	July	June	Sept.	Sept.
	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
Cattle :								
Fat, per live cwt.	45	2	*	36 3	38 3	39 5	33 7	37 11
Store, per head	223	7	211 10	202 11	208 2	203 0	193 1	201 3
Cows :								
Fat, per head	336	10	219 3	215 5	233 6	225 10	211 10	246 0
Sheep & Lambs :								
Fat, per head	53	6	31 9	24 2	25 5	28 3	26 11	34 11
Bacon Pigs, per dead cwt.	78	8	*	59 3†	60 7	62 10	66 8	65 5
Hens & Chickens per head	3	0½	2 0½	1 10½	1 11½	2 2½	1 10½	2 1½
Ducks, per head	2	6½	2 3	2 3½	2 3½	2 2½	2 4½	2 4
Eggs, per 120	13	6	16 6	13 11	11 2	10 9	15 8	15 0
Milk :								
For Manufacture, per gal.	0	6½	*	0 4½	0 4½	0 4½	0 5	0 5
Whole, per gal.	1	0	1 0½	1 0½	1 0½	1 0½	1 0½	0 11½
Farmers' Butter, per lb.	1	5½	1 2½	1 1	1 1	1 1	1 2½	1 0¾
Wool, per lb.	0	11	0 7½	0 7¾	0 7½	0 7	0 5¾	1 0¾
Potatoes, per cwt.	3	5	3 6	2 9	2 4	2 5	2 11	3 0
Oats, per cwt.	8	1	6 5	5 7	5 5	5 4	5 11	7 0
Hay, per ton	73	8	76 1	66 3	66 0	64 10	57 4	64 5
Oat Straw, per ton	47	6	41 10	39 9	37 9	41 11	42 11	44 10
Grass Seed :								
Perennial, per cwt.	16	9	15 7	15 8	—	—	18 1	9 8
Italian, per cwt.	22	7	18 9	20 0	—	—	16 10	4 11
Mixed, per cwt.	15	11	15 5	17 5	—	—	12 0	7 4

* Not yet available.

† Provisional.

MINISTRY OF LABOUR RETAIL PRICES AND INDICES.

The Ministry of Labour general index of retail prices of food in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, at September 1st, was 38 per cent. above the level of July, 1914, as compared with 37 per cent. at August 1st, and 40 per cent. at September 1st, 1938. This slight increase in the current index was mainly due to increases in the prices of eggs and of fish, but these increases were partly counterbalanced by decreases in the prices of potatoes.

The following table shows the average retail prices of certain foods in large towns and villages on September 1st, 1939, August 1st, 1939, and September 1st, 1938.

Article	Sept. 1, 1939	Aug. 1, 1939	Sept. 1, 1938	Increase over July, 1914.		
				Sept. 1, 1939	Aug. 1, 1939	Sept. 1, 1938
	per lb. s. d.	per lb. s. d.	per lb. s. d.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.
Beef, British—						
Ribs	1 2½	1 2½	1 2½	44	43	45
Thin Flank	0 7½	0 7½	0 7½	15	15	16
Beef, Chilled or Frozen—						
Ribs	0 9½	0 9½	0 9½	32	31	32
Thin Flank	0 4½	0 4½	0 5	1	1	2
Mutton, British—						
Legs	1 3½	1 3½	1 3½	48	48	48
Breast	0 7½	0 7½	0 7½	14	14	16
Mutton, Frozen—						
Legs	0 10½	0 10½	0 10½	51	50	52
Breast	0 4	0 4	0 4	— 3*	— 4*	— 1*
Bacon (Streaky)	1 3	1 3	1 3½	35	33	40
Butter—						
Fresh	1 4½	1 4½	1 4½	13	12	16
Salt	1 3½	1 3½	1 3½	7	7	10
Cheese	0 10	0 10	0 10½	16	15	23
Milk	Per Qt. 0 6½	Per Qt. 0 6½	Per Qt. 0 6½	92	91	92
Eggs (Fresh)	each 0 2	each 0 1½	each 0 2	58	36	66
Bread	per 4 lb. 0 8½	per 4 lb. 0 8½	per 4 lb. 0 8½	42	43	52
Flour	per 7 lb. 1 1½	per 7 lb. 1 1½	per 7 lb. 1 2½	26	27	39
Potatoes	0 6½	0 7½	0 6½	33	51	29

* Decrease.

The cost of maintaining unchanged the pre-Great War standard of living of working-class families at September 1st was approximately 55 per cent. over the level of July, 1914, as compared with 55 per cent. at August 1st, 1939, and 56 per cent. at September 1st, 1938.

AGRICULTURAL PRICES.

THE FEEDING STUFFS (MAXIMUM PRICES) ORDER, 1939

The above Order, dated 29th September, has been issued by the Minister of Food fixing the maximum prices to be paid by the farmer for practically all kinds of animal feeding stuffs. These prices are approximately those ruling immediately prior to the war. In the following schedules the maximum prices specified are net cash for two-ton lots, ex mill, store or f.o.r.

The following additional charges may be added to the appropriate prices :—

- (1) All transport charges after sale by the importer or manufacturer, such transport charges being limited to reasonable amounts.
- (2) The charges set out in the second schedule for sales of a total gross weight of less than two tons (by any one seller to any one buyer at any one time).
- (3) The appropriate prices may be increased at a rate not exceeding 7/6d. per ton on the occasion of a sale by a distributing dealer of lots of less than two tons of any “specified” feeding stuffs which have been taken into and delivered out of a distributing dealer’s store (other than for the purpose of processing).
- (4) An extra charge for credit provided that the cash discount is stated on the invoice, and the net figure does not exceed the appropriate price.

An extra charge not exceeding 10/- per ton may be added to the appropriate price of oil cake which has been kibbled before being sold, inclusive of the cost of the container.

Sales of compound cakes and meals are regulated by Article 2, sub-section (b), of the Order, which states that no compound cakes or meals (sold in lots of two tons or more) shall be sold at a price exceeding by more than 25/- per ton the total of the cost to the manufacturer of the ingredients used therein as delivered to his mill or factory, plus the cost of manufacture of such cakes or meals, and plus the cost of containers thereof; provided that no charge in excess of 10/- per ton, exclusive of the cost of any container, shall be made in respect of the mixing of any meals.

A charge on account of war risk insurance may be added at the rate of 1/6d. per ton delivered to the buyer in respect of any compound cakes or meals to which Article 2 applies.

No addition to the appropriate price is allowable for war risks insurance in respect of feeding stuffs specified in the schedules to this Order which are as follow :—

THE FIRST SCHEDULE.

PART A.

Wheat and Wheat By-Products				£	s.	d.	
Imported Feeding Wheat	...	...	...	5	10	0	per ton
Fine wheat-feed and straight-run bran			Home Milled	6	7	6	per ton gross, sacks included
Pollards and Bran	...	...	Imported	6	0	0	" "
Middlings	...	...	Imported	6	5	0	" "
Maize and Maize Products							
Maize, Whole corn (for feeding purposes)	...			6	0	0	per ton
Maize, Cooked Flaked (for feeding purposes)	...			7	10	0	per ton gross, sacks included
Maize, Kibbled or cut (for feeding purposes)	...			7	0	0	" "
Maize Meal (for feeding purposes)	...		Home Milled	7	0	0	" "
Maize Meal, White (for feeding purposes)			Imported	6	0	0	" "
Maize Meal, Yellow (for feeding purposes)			Imported	6	5	0	" "
Maize Germ Meal	...	...	Home Milled	6	15	0	" "
Maize Germ Meal	...	...	Imported	6	5	0	" "
Maize Gluten Feed	...	...	English	6	12	6	" "
Maize Gluten Feed	...	...	Scottish	7	12	6	" "
Maize Gluten Feed	...	...	Imported	6	5	0	" "
Hominy Chop	...	...	Imported	6	0	0	" "
Barley and Barley Products							
Barley	...	...	Imported Feeding	6	0	0	per ton
Barley Meal	...	...		7	2	6	per ton gross, sacks included
Oats and Processed Oats							
Oats, Imported Feeding No. 1 Canadian feed	...			6	12	6	per ton
<i>Other qualities at customary differences for feeding purposes.</i>							
Oats, crushed or rolled or Cattle ground from No. 1 Canadian feed oats	...	...		7	12	6	per ton gross, sacks included
<i>Other qualities at customary differences.</i>							
Oats, Sussex ground	...	...		8	2	6	" "
<i>Other qualities at customary differences.</i>							
Other Cereals							
Beans, Feeding Home Produced ex Farm	...			7	15	0	per ton
" " " " Split or ground	...			8	15	0	per ton gross, sacks included
Beans, Imported Feeding	...			7	17	6	per ton
" " " " Split or ground	...			8	17	6	per ton gross, sacks included
Peas, Russian	...	...		7	15	0	per ton
" " " " Split or ground	...			8	15	0	per ton gross, sacks included
Gram	...	...		6	10	0	per ton
" " " " Split or ground	...			7	10	0	per ton gross, sacks included
Lentils, Russian	...	...		8	2	6	per ton
" " " " Split or ground	...			9	2	6	per ton gross, sacks included
Locust Beans	...	...		6	5	0	" "
" " " " Kibbled	...	...		7	5	0	" "
" " " " Bean Meal	...	...		7	15	0	" "
Rice Bran							
Rice Bran, Rangoon	...	...		5	15	0	" "
" " " " Siam	...	...		5	15	0	" "
" " " " English	...	...		6	5	0	" "

PART A (continued).

					£	s.	d.		
Dried Grains, etc.									
Dried Grains, Ale	...	...	...	...	5	7	6	per ton	
" " Mixed	...	...	...	...	5	2	6	"	
" " Distillers 40% Oil and Alb.	...	...	...	...	7	5	0	"	
Malt Culms	...	...	...	...	5	0	0	"	
Sundry Products									
Ground Tapioca Root		Imported	...		6	10	0	per ton gross, sacks included	
Fish Meal, Home Produced									
			60% Alb., 4% Oil (max.)	...	16	5	0	"	"
" " " " 60% Alb., 6% Oil (max.)	...			...	15	5	0	"	"
" " " Canadian Herring	...			...	13	7	6	"	"
<i>Fish Meal other qualities at customary differences</i>									
Sterilised Feeding Bone Flour		English	...		7	0	0	"	"
Feeding Meat and Bone Meal, English, 40% Alb.									
12% Oil (max.)	...	...	...	...	8	15	0	"	"
<i>Other qualities at customary differences.</i>									
Hay									
Prime Meadow; English, Scottish, Welsh	or								
Northern Irish	...	...	...	...	6	0	0	per ton trussed, ex Farm	
Prime Mixture; English, Scottish, Welsh	or								
Northern Irish	...	...	...	...	6	10	0	"	"
Canadian F. A. Q.	...	...	...	...	5	15	0	per ton in bales, ex Quay	
Canadian Timothy and Clover	...	...	...	...	6	2	6	"	"
Norwegian	...	...	...	...	5	12	6	"	"

PART B.

OILSEED CAKES AND MEALS.

Cotton Seed Cake and Meal				£	s.	d.	
Cotton seed	Cake	undecorticated					
			Egyptian Home produced	5	15	0	per ton in bulk
"	"	"	Imported Egyptian	5	12	6	per ton gross, sacks included
"	"	"	Indian Imported				
"	"	"	30/32% Oil & Alb.	5	17	6	" "
"	"	"	decorticated 48/50% Oil & Alb.				
			Imported	8	2	6	" "
"	"	"	44/47% "	7	15	0	" "
"	"	"	40/42% "	7	7	6	" "
"	"	"	38/40% "	7	2	6	" "
Cotton seed	Meal	decorticated	49% Oil & Alb.				
			Home produced	8	5	0	" "
"	"	"	42% Oil & Alb.				
			Home produced	7	15	0	" "
"	"	"	50/53% Oil & Alb.				
			Imported	8	10	0	" "
"	"	"	45% Oil & Alb.				
			Haitian	8	0	0	" "
"	"	"	40/42% Oil & Alb.				
			Egyptian	7	15	0	" "
"	"	"	Extracted 30/32% Oil & Alb.				
			Home produced	6	7	6	" "
Ground Cake and Meal							
Groundnut	Cake	Decorticated	54% Oil & Alb.				
			Home produced	7	12	6	per ton in bulk
"	Meal	Extracted	54/56% "	7	12	6	per ton gross, sacks included
"	Cake	Undecorticated	39% Oil & Alb.				
			Imported	6	10	0	" "
"	"	Decorticated	54% "	7	15	0	" "
"	"	Expeller	57/60% "	7	17	6	" "
"	"	Decorticated	48/50% "	7	10	0	" "
Linseed Cake							
Linseed	Cake		8% Oil Home produced	9	5	0	per ton in bulk
"	"		9% " "	9	10	0	" "
"	"	Expeller	9% " Indian	9	5	0	per ton gross, sacks included
"	"	"	10% " "	9	7	6	" "
"	"	Slab	Indian Selected Brands	9	15	0	" "
"	"	"	Indian other qualities	9	5	0	" "
"	"	"	North American	9	7	6	" "
Other Oilseed Cakes and Meals							
Coconut	Cake		Home produced	7	10	0	per ton
"	"		Imported	7	5	0	per ton gross, sacks included
Palm	Kernel	Cake	Home produced	6	15	0	per ton
"	"	"	Kibbled	7	5	0	per ton gross, sacks included
"	"	"	Meal Extracted	7	0	0	" "
Soya	Bean	Cake	Home produced	10	2	6	per ton in bulk
Rape	Meal		Imported	6	15	0	per ton gross, sacks included
Soya	Bean	Meal	Extracted	10	2	6	" "

PART C.

Dried Sugar Beet Pulp. Plain or Molassed ex factories set out below :—	Delivered October, 1939	Delivered November, 1939	Delivered December, 1939
	Per ton £ s. d.	Per ton £ s. d.	Per ton £ s. d.
ALLSCOTT, Shropshire	5 11 0	5 13 0	5 15 0
BARDNEY, Lincs.	5 6 0	5 8 0	5 10 0
BRIGG, Lincs.	5 11 0	5 13 0	5 15 0
BURY ST. EDMUNDS, Suffolk	5 1 0	5 3 0	5 5 0
CANTLEY, Norfolk	5 1 0	5 3 0	5 5 0
COLWICK, Notts.	5 6 0	5 8 0	5 10 0
CUPAR, Fifeshire	—	5 18 0	6 0 0
ELY, Cambs.	5 1 0	5 3 0	5 5 0
FELSTEAD, Essex	5 6 0	5 8 0	5 10 0
IPSWICH, Suffolk	5 1 0	5 3 0	5 5 0
KELHAM, Newark, Notts.	5 6 0	5 8 0	5 10 0
KIDDERMINSTER, Worcs.	5 11 0	5 13 0	5 15 0
KING'S LYNN, Norfolk	5 1 0	5 3 0	5 5 0
PETERBOROUGH, Northants.	5 1 0	5 3 0	5 5 0
POPPLETON, Yorks.	5 11 0	5 13 0	5 15 0
SELBY, Yorks.	5 11 0	5 13 0	5 15 0
SPALDING, Lincs.	5 1 0	5 3 0	5 5 0
WISSINGTON, Norfolk (F.O.R. only)	5 1 0	5 3 0	5 5 0

THE SECOND SCHEDULE.

Weight.	Charge.
1 ton and under 2 tons	5/- per ton
10 cwts. and under 1 ton	10/- "
3 cwts. and under 10 cwts.	15/- "
Under 3 cwts.	The customary addition.

THE THIRD SCHEDULE.

Rye Grain for feeding purposes.

Rye Meal

Rye Offals

Clover Meal

Dried Yeast for feeding purposes

Dried Blood for feeding purposes

TRADE AND PRICES OF LIVE STOCK AT BELFAST AUCTION MARTS.

The supplies of beef cattle at the Belfast Auction Marts during September were, on the whole, of good quality. The tone of the market was generally firm, although some fluctuations in the demand occurred. Prices reflected this tendency and were highest at the beginning of the month, and after declining somewhat in the next two weeks, rose again at the close. The ranges of quotations per live cwt. varied as follows:—First quality, 38/6d. to 45/6d.; good commercial cattle 36/- to 42/6d., rougher and unfinished lots 33 - to 41/-.

The following table shows the average prices for fat cattle during last month compared with those ruling at the corresponding dates a year ago:—

<i>Week ended</i>	<i>per cwt.</i>	<i>Week ended</i>	<i>per cwt.</i>
9th September, 1939 ...	40/3	10th September, 1938 ...	33/11
16th " " ...	38/7	17th " " ...	32/4
23rd " " ...	38/1	24th " " ...	33/1
30th " " ...	38/11	1st October, " ...	34/5
Average for month ...	38/10	Average for month ...	33/6
7th October, 1939 ...	38/3	8th October, 1938 ...	32/7

The prices for fat cows and bulls were also higher than those ruling in the previous month, the demand in this section having made a general improvement.

The demand for store cattle was further improved, and prices tended to higher levels in sympathy with the trend of beef prices. The bulk of the sales was effected at appreciably higher rates than those ruling in August, although the general price ranges were rather similar at from £13 to £16 per head for large stores, £12 to £14 for six-quarter-olds, £9 to £12 10s. 0d. for yearlings, and £5 to £8 per head for calves and weanlings.

At the sales of fat sheep and lambs held during September good quality animals were again in brisk request at prices a shade firmer than those obtaining in August. The estimated prices per pound dressed carcase weight ranged from 6½d. to 9d. for lambs and from 2½d. to 5½d. for fat ewes according to quality. Breeding and store sheep offered at the autumn sales encountered a variable enquiry at current rates which, on the whole, differed little from those obtaining at the same sales in 1938.

The weekly price ranges for fat cows, store cattle, dairy cattle and fat sheep and lambs, appear in the table on page 382.

PRICES OF OTHER STOCK AT THE BELFAST AUCTION MARTS.

Description		Week ended 9-9-39	Week ended 16-9-39	Week ended 23-9-39	Week ended 30-9-39
Fat Cows ...	...	£15 to £20-5 £10 to £16-10	£14 to £18-10 £11 to £15-10	£14 to £19 £10-10 to £15	£15 to £18-10 £11 to £15
Store Cattle :					
Forward Stores	...	£13-10 to £15 £11-10 to £12-15	£14-10 to £15-15 £13 to £14-5	£14-10 to £16-10 £13 to £14-5	£14-10 to £16-10 £13 to £14-10
Calves	...	£9-10 to £11 £7 to £9	£10-10 to £12-10 £8 to £10	£10-10 to £12-10 £8 to £10	£11 to £12-10 £8 to £10-10
Dairy Cattle :					
Milch Cows	...	£21 to £27 £17 to £20	£21 to £27 £16 to £20	£21 to £27-10 £16 to £20	£21 to £29-10 £17 to £20
Springers	...	£20 to £26 £16 to £19	£20 to £23 £16 to £19	£20 to £23 £16 to £19	£19 to £22 £16 to £18
Sheep and Lambs :					
Crossbred & White Ewes	...	32/- to 38/6 25/- to 32/-	27/6 to 42/- 23/- to 34/-	32/- to 42/- 24/- to 34/-	30/- to 46/- 23/- to 31/-
Blackface Ewes	...	26/6 to 34/- 19/- to 27/6	23/6 to 32/- 16/- to 25/-	24/- to 32/- 19/- to 25/-	24/- to 32/- 17/- to 26/-
Crossbred & White Lambs	...	32/- to 41/6 25/- to 32/-	32/- to 47/- 25/- to 39/-	32/- to 45/- 24/- to 37/-	32/- to 45/- 25/- to 34/-
Blackface Lambs	...	18/- to 23/- 14/- to 21/-	17/- to 25/- 12/- to 22/-	18/- to 23/6 12/6 to 19/-	18/- to 25/- 13/- to 20/-
Rams	...	36/- to 41/- 30/- to 36/-	34/- to 42/- 28/- to 34/-	38/- to 50/- 30/- to 40/-	35/- to 52/- 27/- to 39/-

ACCOUNT OF TRADE AT FAIRS.

Trade in cattle at fairs held in Northern Ireland made a marked improvement during September, and prices finished higher in all sections.

The offerings of store cattle were, on the whole, of fairly good quality, and with purchasers well represented the demand was brisk, especially towards the end of the month. Buying was often of a speculative nature, and good clearances were effected at dearer rates. All classes of stores in forward condition sold readily, but the best demand was experienced for good polly bullocks showing flesh, and nice coloured heifers suitable for breeding purposes.

The trade for beef cattle was also good, and prices recorded an improvement. The quality and condition of the animals was generally moderate. Well finished medium-weight bullocks of the Aberdeen-Angus type were again in favour, but all animals showing quality and finish sold readily.

The bulk of the dairy cattle supplies was sold at higher prices than those ruling in August. Business was best for good young cows and heifers suitable for the shipping trade, but only aged and rough cattle failed to find purchasers.

The chief demand in the sheep and lamb section was for breeding and fat animals. As a rule good types of breeding ewes and ram lambs, fat lambs and aged fat sheep, sold readily at firm to higher rates.

The enquiry for young pigs was variable, and price movements were irregular. On balance, however, quotations were little altered on the month. Brood sows were also an irregular trade at prices which fluctuated around recent levels and ranged from £5 10s. 0d. to £13 0s. 0d. per head according to type and quality.

PRICES OF LIVE STOCK.

Average prices of Live Stock at Fairs during the month of September, 1939.

Date	Fair	Calves (under 9 months)	Store Cattle	Fat Cattle (18 months and over)	Springers		Milch Cows	Fat Lambs (under 12 months)	Breeding Ewes	Young Pigs
					Cows	Heifers				
		Per head £ s.	Per cwt. Live weight	Per cwt. Live weight	Per head £ s.	Per head £ s.	Per head £ s.	Per head £ s.	Per head £ s.	Per head £ s.
1	Moy	—	35/- to 40/-	34/-	13 17/6	15 5	14 15	—	†1 12/6	—
4	Londonderry	—	38/- to 40/-	—	16 0	—	—	—	—	—
5	Omagh	6 10	37/6 to 40/-	35/-	16 10	17 0	15 10	†1 8/6	*1 18	—
6	Rathfriland	7 2	36/- to 42/-	37/-	18 0	17 15	18 5	†1 6	†1 15	—
7	Ballymoney	6 7/6	35/- to 37/-	—	20 0	18 15	12 5	†10 19/6	†1 13	1 8
7	Strabane	—	37/- to 38/6	36/6	15 10	—	—	—	†1 15	—
8	Ballygawley	—	30/- to 42/6	37/6	15 0	—	15 0	—	†1 15	1 16
8	Irvinestown	7 1/9	35/- to 37/6	35/-	14 10	14 0	13 10	*1 15	*1 12/6	1 13
11	Enniskillen	6 17	35/- to 41/-	38/-	18 0	16 0	15 0	†1 12/6	*1 12	1 15
12	Dungiven	—	35/- to 41/-	36/-	15 0	—	—	†1 5	†1 8	1 7/6
13	Crossgar	—	37/- to 40/-	—	—	—	—	—	—	1 14
13	Kilrea	6 5	37/- to 42/6	38/-	17 10	16 0	—	*1 10	—	1 10
16	Portadown	6 14/3	36/- to 39/-	37/6	19 0	18 0	18 0	—	—	1 17/6
18	Camlough	6 0	37/6 to 42/6	38/-	17 10	16 10	14 0	†1 15	—	—
20	Lisnaskea	6 13/3	31/- to 39/-	40/-	17 0	17 0	15 0	†1 15	†2 0	—
21	Ballynahinch	—	38/- to 40/-	—	18 0	—	17 5	*1 10	*1 17	2 0
21	Money more	6 19	37/6 to 47/6	36/-	17 0	16 0	15 0	†1 10	†1 18	1 15
22	Fintona	7 0	37/6 to 40/-	35/-	15 10	15 0	16 0	†1 15	†1 18/6	—
25	Banbridge	6 7	35/- to 38/-	37/-	16 0	—	15 0	*1 7/6	†1 13	1 15
28	Antrim	—	37/6 to 43/-	37/-	22 0	19 0	—	—	—	1 14
29	Castlederg	6 10	38/- to 42/-	38/-	16 0	—	—	—	—	1 10
29	Killylea	—	33/- to 44/6	38/6	17 10	—	18 0	†1 10	†1 15	—
30	Ballymena	7 4/6	33/6 to 41/6	—	21 10	19 0	21 0	—	—	1 8

* Long Wools.

† Downs and Crossbreds.

† Mountain.

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- " 37 The Raising and Fattening of Turkeys.
- Report on Stormont Egg Laying Test.
- List of Accredited Poultry Farms in Northern Ireland.

Any of the above publications may be obtained free of charge and post free on application to the Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Stormont, Belfast.

The following publications can be obtained from His Majesty's Stationery Office, 80 Chichester Street, Belfast, at the prices stated:—

- | | |
|---|-----------------|
| (1) The Annual Report of the Ministry of Agriculture for Northern Ireland | Price, 2/6 net. |
| (2) Annual Report upon the Agricultural Statistics for Northern Ireland | Price, 2/- net. |
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